

Galium tinctorium



stiff marsh bedstraw

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|----------|-----------|-----|---|
| Family | Rubiaceae | | |
| Origin | Native | | |
| WIS Code | OBL | CoC | 4 |

DESCRIPTION

As with most bedstraws, this species has rough scratchy stems and leaves. The branching stems usually fall over, becoming tangled in each other and in the surrounding vegetation. The leaves (5 to 16 mm long) linear oblong are whorled in groups of four to six, with blunt or rounded-tip leaflets.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

Clusters of tiny white three-petaled flowers (1.5 mm wide) are found in the leaf axils (where leaves meet the stem). Fruits occur in pairs and are smooth round tiny pods, each containing a seed. The fruits turn black as they ripen.



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HABITAT

Wet meadows, swamps, edges of lakes, ditches and other disturbed sites.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Galium obtusum, bluntleaf bedstraw, is similar but flowers (1.5 to 3 mm wide) have four slightly longer petals, not three round short petals. *Galium aparine*, stickywilly, also with four-petaled flowers, usually has whorls of eight leaves (1 to 8 cm long) and will stick to clothing.



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Galium tinctorium



Galium obtusum



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Galium aparine

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